

THE SHELTER DISH

The Animal Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department

Winter/Spring 2004 Edition



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Welcome to *The Shelter Dish*, the newsletter of the Fairfax County Animal Services Division!

Inside, you will find everything you would need to know about the Fairfax County Police Department's Animal Services Division.

Don't forget to get your 2004 Fairfax County Dog License!

Licenses are on sale now at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and the Fairfax County Government Center.

Licenses are \$5 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$10 for intact dogs.

Rabies Clinic

I N F O R M A T I O N

The Animal Services Division offers a low cost rabies clinic as a service to Fairfax County residents. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers. The clinics are sponsored by the Northern Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and are offered the second Sunday of every other month.

Time:
12PM to 2PM

~ ~ ~
Cost:
\$10.00

You can also see animals available for adoption on Adopt-A-Pet on County Cable Channel 16.

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays- 2:30PM

Tuesdays- 10:30PM

Thursdays- 8:30PM

Saturdays- 6:30PM

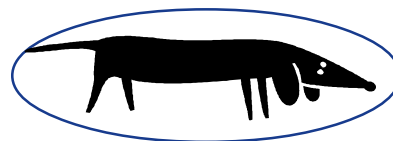


Upcoming Rabies Clinic Dates:

March 14, 2004
May 16, 2004
November 14, 2004

Don't forget to purchase your Fairfax County Dog License!

Fairfax County dog licenses must be purchased annually. Please bring your rabies certificate and proof of sterilization. Licenses can be purchased at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter or at the Government Center. Licenses can also be purchased by mail to either location. License fees are \$5.00 for sterile dogs and \$10.00 for fertile dogs.



Fairfax County, Virginia		Department of Tax Administration		Dog License	
Licensee's Full Name	License Number	County of Fairfax, Virginia	Department of Tax Administration	12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 200 Fairfax, VA 22031	Expires Dec. 31, _____
Animal's Breed/Type	Animal's Age	For Enforced: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Animal's Sex	Animal's Color	Fertile Dog: \$10.00	Animal's Sterilization: \$5.00	Please include a current rabies certificate and, if applicable, a current health certificate.	
Animal's Name	Animal's Address	Have you ever licensed this dog before in Fairfax County? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Animal's Photo	Animal's Signature	Valid only if stamped PAID by Department of Tax Administration			

"In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods, they have never forgotten this."

-Unknown



"Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear."

-Dave Barry

Did you know?



Rabbits are easily trained to use the litter box. The key is to set them up to succeed because rabbits do not respond well to punishment. Begin by confining your bun to a small area with a litter box in one corner. Your bun will know this is her bathroom. As soon as she starts using the box consistently, you can expand her running area. She will go back to her litter box when it is time. Continue expanding her area gradually until she has the run of the house. If you notice she is going to the bathroom elsewhere, limit her to her small area again and/or place another litter box there. Use positive reinforcement in the way of praise and healthy treats. Throw some hay in the box since rabbits like to nibble while going to the bathroom. Pine and cedar chips should not be used for litter since studies indicate the oils used to make them cause respiratory and liver problems in rabbits. Use a paper based litter such as Carefresh, wood pellets, newspaper, or hay.

Credit: Bunny Lu Adoptions, Inc.

Disaster Preparedness Packets Now Available



Please inquire at the Front Counter!



Includes:

- Disaster Supply Checklist for Pets
- Evacuation Tips
- Telephone Numbers for Local Animal Shelters and Animal Control Agencies
- List of our Veterinarian Friends



Shelter Wish List

- Towels or Small Blankets
- Newspaper
- Food (canned and dry), Treats
- Toys, Leashes, Collars, Dishes, Crates, Cages
- Small Animal Supplies (Rabbit, Bird, Guinea Pig, Hamster cages, & foods)

"Ask Eudy"

An advice column for all things animal related

Dear Eudy,

I recently adopted a wonderful older Labrador Retriever from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. The Staff of FCAS told me that Kerry had been given a canine bordetella shot. What is kennel cough and why does FCAS vaccinate against it?



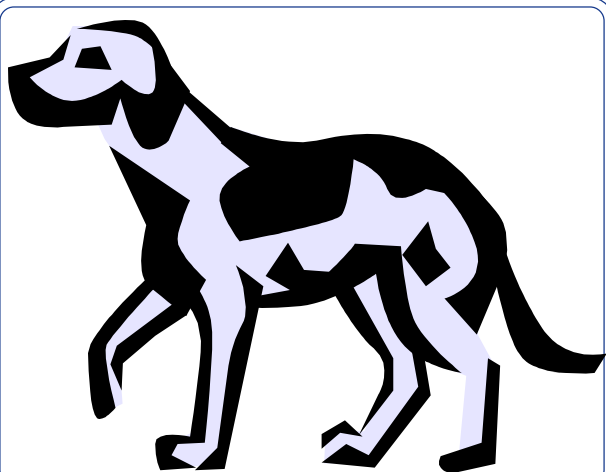
Eugene Huggins writing his column

H.D., Fairfax Station

Dear H.D.,

Kennel Cough, also called canine cough, bordetellosis and infectious tracheobronchitis, is caused by several infectious agents working together to damage and irritate the lining of the dog's trachea and upper bronchii.

The damage to the tracheal lining is fairly superficial, but it exposes nerve endings that become irritated simply by the passage of air over the damaged tracheal lining. Once the organisms are eliminated, the tracheal lining will heal rapidly.



The symptoms of kennel cough are a dry, hacking cough that appears about three to seven days after the dog is initially infected. It sounds as though the dog needs to clear his throat. The cough can be triggered by any extra activity or exercise. The cough will occur every few minutes, all day long and it usually lasts for seven to twenty-one days. **General health and alertness will be not be affected.**

Kennel cough is usually treated with cough suppressants and antibiotics.

Kennel cough is usually transmitted by a causative organism present in the expired air of an infected dog. The airborne organism, if inhaled by a susceptible dog, can attach to the lining of the trachea and upper airway passage. It will find a warm, moist surface to reside, replicate and eventually damages the cells that it infects.

The reason this disease seems so common and is even named kennel cough is that when there are numbers of dogs confined together in an enclosed environment such as a kennel or animal shelter, the disease is more likely to spread like a cold in humans. Even in the most hygienic, well-ventilated and spacious kennels, the possibility of a dog getting kennel cough exists. Your dog can get kennel cough from your neighbor's dog or at an animal hospital while being treated for other elements, so try not to blame the kennel operator if your dog develops kennel cough after a weekend stay at a shelter or kennel.



The most effective means of prevention is through vaccination. The lengths of times that these natural exposures and vaccinations will produce protective immunity will vary greatly. How often to vaccinate seems to have a subjective and elusive answer.

Note: any vaccine takes days to weeks to stimulate the dog's preventive immunity to the disease. Vaccinating a dog the day it is exposed to disease may not be effective protection. If you plan to board your dog or protect it from exposure, remember to vaccinate a few weeks prior to potential exposure to allow full protective immunity to build up.

Thanks for your question, H.D., and congratulations on your new dog adoption!

Eudy

Do you have a question for Eudy?



Mail your questions to:

"Ask Eudy"

4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Contributing Writer:

Caretaker Supervisor Eugene Huggins has worked at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for 18 years.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

We would love for you to volunteer with us!

Please take a moment to read through this list to see if you would be interested in applying to become a Fairfax County Animal Services Division Volunteer.

- The minimum age for Volunteers is 16 years old.
- There is a required time commitment of 3 months and at least 8 hours a month to volunteer with us.
- You must pass a basic criminal background check before you will be called for an interview.
- Volunteers sign up for time slots in the areas in which they are trained.
- Each volunteer is trained for a minimum of two specialties of their choosing.
- The current ten specialties include:



Lead Small Mammal Assistant Mary socializing a rabbit

Dog Walker- Assist in the socialization of dogs available for adoption by walking them in a specified area. Volunteers are encouraged to interact with dogs by talking, brushing, and playful contact.

Kennel Assistant- Assist caretakers with duties associated with animal care, cleaning cages, filling water bowls and taking animals out of cages to visit with potential adopters. This job also includes routine maintenance such as washing windows, food pans, sweeping, etc.

Grooming Assistant- Assist caretakers with the grooming of animals at the shelter. Duties include bathing animals, clipping nails and other tasks related to the upkeep of an animal.

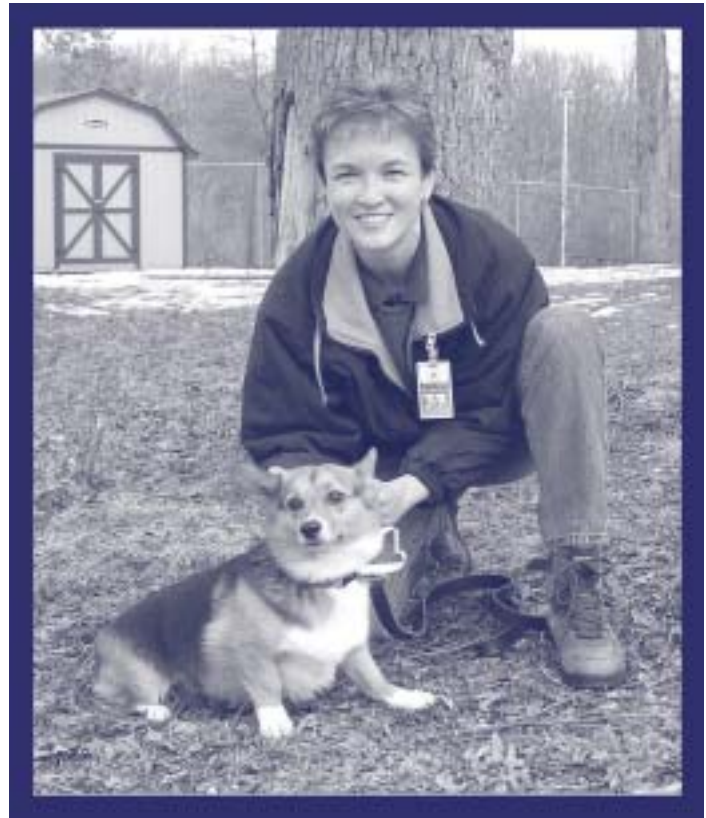
Cat Socialization- Assist in the socialization of cats available for adoption by handling, brushing, speaking softly, and playful contact. Duties also include spot cleaning cages, replacing water, and cleaning litter boxes throughout the day.

Small Mammal Assistant- Assist caretakers with duties associated with rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and other small mammals. Duties include spot cleaning cages, replenishing water and hay, and sweeping around cages. Volunteer also interacts with the public and must have prior experience with small mammals.

Front Office Assistant- Assist the front office staff with such duties as updating lost and found reports, assisting citizens at the counter with the purchase of licenses, questions regarding adoption policies and other animal issues.

Administrative/Multimedia Assistant- Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with administrative duties in the Volunteer Office. Duties include assembling adoption packets, volunteer packets, scanning images, creating flyers, etc. Some graphic design background is preferred.

Receptionist/Telephone Assistant- Assist the front office staff with answering phones and dissemination of information. Responsibilities include taking lost and found reports over the phone as well as providing information to the public in regards to the Animal Services Division.



Dog Walker Jami exercising a dog

Events/Tours Assistant- Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with guided tours of the Shelter. Duties include providing groups of all ages and numbers detailed information about the Animal Services Division and acting as a representative of the Animal Services Division at public events. Volunteers with extroverted personalities are preferred.

Adoption Counselor Assistant- Assist in the counseling process of the public. Duties include reviewing personality profiles of animals in the Shelter to properly match a citizen with a specific animal. Must have good communication skills.

Want an application?

Applications are available at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/ac/volunteer.htm>. Online applications are available in Adobe PDF and Microsoft Word format.

Protect Your Pet From Winter's Woes

In many areas, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.

- Don't leave dogs outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, shorthaired, very young, or old dogs and *all* cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.
- No matter what the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.
- Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.
- The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

Credit: The Humane Society of the United States

Get your Animal Friendly license plates today!

As a revenue sharing plate, \$ 15.00 of the \$ 25.00 fee is transferred to the **locality in which the vehicle is registered** for support of dog and cat sterilization programs.



To purchase your Animal Friendly license plates, please visit your local DMV office, or visit <http://www.dmv.state.va.us>

Where are they now?

Updates from Alumni of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Hi!

My name is Tasha and I'm cute. I'm also petite. Nobody really knows who or what my parents were, but I am mostly Maltese, with, maybe, some Shih-Tzu thrown in for proper "blending." I love other animals, especially BIG dogs, and kids and, well, just about everyone, including the mailman. When I was adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, I weighed 5.5 pounds. I now top the scales at almost 9 pounds, which is perfect for my girlish figure.



I might not be here today, except that an Animal Control Officer found me running around on the streets. I can't speak so I was unable to tell him how I got there, but it was COLD, and I was hungry. Being small and cautious, I must have given him a bad time, but eventually, he caught me and brought me to the Shelter. I was bathed and given shots, and put into a cage (u-g-g-g-g-g-hhhh!). After 10 days at the Shelter, I was adopted by a fun couple that needed ALL of my attention and affection. They signed all the papers, took me to a store, got me a collar and leash, and then took me to the doggie doctor, all part of the adoption process. I was also spayed (not the greatest thing, but necessary I guess) because my new parents had to do that as a condition of my adoption.

Since my adoption day, I have been working hard to please my parents. My most important jobs are keeping one of their laps warm and sleeping under the covers on cold nights to protect them from the cold because MY body temperature is warmer than theirs. I also entertain them and their grandsons, who are not afraid of dogs (because of me), as so many kids are. I'm happy, safe, and secure because of the good work of the Animal Shelter staff and thankful that they put me with the right people. I remember that there were a lot of other really neat dogs, cats, bunnies, and even an iguana in the Shelter that really needed families too, and I hope that they were able to find homes with people that love them as much as I am loved. I think that more people should go to the Shelter to find pets rather than go to shops or spend too much money for dogs with "papers." Papers should be used for only one thing: potty training.

To all my friends at the Fairfax Animal Shelter: "Luv-ya, guys and girls, and thanks for saving me from a life on the streets."

Tasha

Contributed by Tasha and her new family.

Do you have an alumni story for us?

Mail your story to:

"Alumni Stories"
4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

AS A FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER



The Fairfax County Police Department is the largest local law enforcement agency in Virginia with more than 1,300 sworn police officers. It is recognized as one of the finest and most progressive law enforcement agencies in the country.

The Animal Services Division, within the Police Department, is comprised of 23 Animal Control Officers, 4 Animal Control Supervisors and a Chief Animal Control Officer.

The Animal Services Division's function is to promote the peaceful co-existence between animals and the citizens of Fairfax County. The Animal Services Division's primary duty is to regulate and protect animals through the enforcement of the Virginia State Comprehensive Animal Laws and county ordinances.

If you are seeking the rewards of a public service career, the opportunity of a lifetime may await you with the Animal Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department.

Minimum Qualifications

Animal Control Officer

- Corrected 20/20 vision; normal color perception.
- Ability to perform a full range of job functions.
- At least 20 years and 6 months of age at date of hire.
- Possess High School degree or G.E.D.
- Valid driver's license with good driving record.
- Never committed, been involved in, convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor. Drug use history will be scrutinized.
- Excellent character, reputation and stable work record.

\$36,817*

*enhanced pay available for college, prior law enforcement or military experience.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal.htm

Or contact us by telephone:

703-830-3681

Get to Know...

ACO Supervisor Lynn Reid

Where were you born?

Arlington, VA

How long have you been an Animal Control Officer?

17 years

What are some of your hobbies?

Scuba diving, kayaking, swimming, hiking

How many siblings do you have?

2 brothers and 2 sisters

How many pets do you have?

3 dogs named Ditto, Jester, and Rosie

What kinds of animals have you had during your lifetime?

Horses, Ferrets, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Rats, Snakes, Dogs, Birds, Cats.

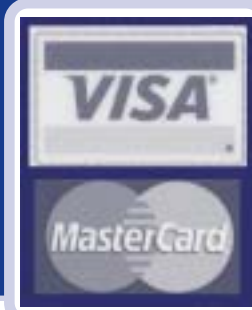
What are some interesting things about you that we might not know?

- I lived in Israel for 12 years where I served two and a half years of active duty and six years in the reserves of the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces).
- I worked at the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem, Israel.
- I served in the army with the brother of one of the weightlifters murdered at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.
- I was at the airport the day the bodies of the murdered Israeli Olympic athletes returned from Munich in 1972. Some of those in attendance included: Yitzak Rabin, Golda Meir, and Moshe Dayan.
- I met now-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon while horseback riding in 1975.



Officer Reid with Jester

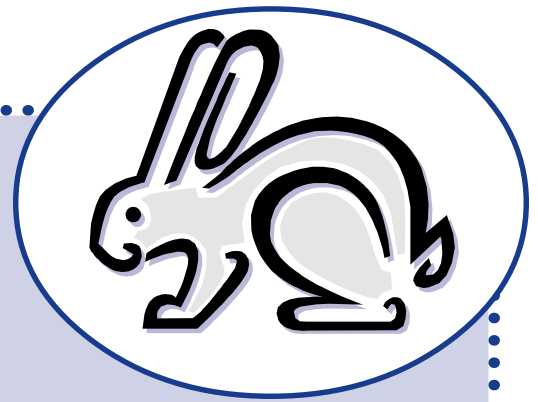
**Animal Services Division
now accepts
Visa and
Mastercard!**



ASD's

Pet

of the Month



Shelter Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 8AM to 6PM
Saturday, 8AM to 5PM

Adoption Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 10AM to 5PM
Saturday, 10AM to 4PM

The Shelter is closed Sundays,
Mondays and holidays.

Sarah

*Sarah is an adult female
with a great personality.
She is gray and cream
tortoiseshell with green
eyes. Won't you be her
forever home?*



**Fairfax County Police Department
Animal Services Division**

4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 830-1100 (Shelter)
(703) 830-3310 (Animal Control Dispatch)
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals



*Did you forget to buy your county dog license?
Dog licenses can be purchased at the Animal Shelter or at the Government Center.*